



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG-2023-0216]

RIN 1625-AA00

Safety Zone; Ohio River, Cincinnati, OH

AGENCY: Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is extending the duration of a temporary safety zone for all navigable waters of the Ohio River from mile marker (MM) 487.0 to MM 489.0. This action is necessary to provide for the safety of personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards created by Duke Energy's Static Wire Crossing operation taking place on the Ohio River from MM 487.0 to MM 489.0. Entry of vessel or persons into this zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port, Sector Ohio Valley or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective without actual notice from [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], through May 19, 2023. For the purposes of enforcement, actual notice will be used from May 15, 2023, until [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2023-0216 in the search box and click "Search." Next, in the Document Type column, select "Supporting & Related Material."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email Petty Officer Thomas Harp, MSD Cincinnati, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone number 513-921-9033, email Thomas.L.Harp@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COTP	Captain of the Port
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	Federal Register
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

On May 1, 2023, the Coast Guard issued a temporary final rule establishing a safety zone on all waters of the Ohio River from MM 487.0 to 489.0 to protect persons, vessels, and the marine environment from potential hazards created by Duke Energy's Static Wire Crossing operation (88 FR 28408, May 4, 2023). The original rule was effective through May 15, 2023. However, additional time is needed to conduct the static wire crossing, and, as a result, the Coast Guard needs to extend the safety zone through May 19, 2023. The Coast Guard is issuing this temporary rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to authority under section 4(a) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 U.S.C. 553(b)). This provision authorizes an agency to issue a rule without prior notice and opportunity to comment when the agency for good cause finds that those procedures are "impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." Under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for not publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) with respect to this extension because it would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest. The Coast Guard was unable to publish an NPRM and hold a reasonable comment period for this

rulemaking because it is impracticable due to the emergent nature of the continuing wire crossing operation and required publication of this extension.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest because immediate action is necessary to protect persons and property from the dangers associated with the static wire crossing operation..

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034. The Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with the Duke Energy's Static Wire Crossing operation will be a safety concern for all navigable waters on the Ohio River from MM 487.0 to 489.0. This rule is needed to ensure the safety of life and vessels on these navigable waters.

IV. Discussion of the Rule

This rule extends the effective dates of an established safety zone, originally established on May 1, 2023, and effective through May 15, 2023, through May 19, 2023. The safety zone includes all navigable waters of the Ohio River between MM 487.0 to 489.0. The extended duration of the zone is intended to protect personnel, vessels, and the maritime environment in these navigable waters while static wire crossing operations are conducted.. No vessel or persons will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative. Vessels may contact Sector Ohio Valley Command Center on VHF-FM Channel 16 or by telephone at 1-800-253-7465. Person and vessel permitted to enter this regulated area must transit at their slowest safe speed and comply with all lawful directions issued by the COTP or the designated representative.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the size, location, and limited duration of the safety zone. This zone will be in place on a two mile stretch of the Ohio River between the hours of 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. through May 19, 2023, or until the work is completed, whichever is sooner. The Coast Guard will issue a Local Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM marine channel 16 about the temporary safety zone. This rule allows vessels to seek permission from the COTP or a designated representative to enter the safety zone.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the safety zone may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have

a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have

a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a safety zone lasting for 30 days that will prohibit entry within certain navigable waters of the Chincoteague Bay. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places, or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

2. Add § 165.T08-0216 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08-0216 Safety Zone; Ohio River, Cincinnati, OH.

(a) *Location.* All navigable waters of the Ohio River between mile marker (MM) 487.0 to MM 489.0, in Finney, OH.

(b) *Definitions.* As used in this section, *designated representative* means a Coast Guard Patrol Commander, including a Coast Guard coxswain, petty officer, or other officer operating a Coast Guard vessel and a Federal, State, and local officer designated by or assisting the Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley (COTP) in the enforcement of the safety zone.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry into this zone is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the COTP or a designated representative. Persons or vessels desiring to enter into or pass through the zone must request permission from the COTP or a designated representative. They may be contact on VHF-FM radio channel 16 or phone at 1-800-253-4765.

(2) Persons and vessels permitted to enter the safety zone listed in paragraph (a) of this section must transit at the slowest safe speed and comply with all lawful directions issued by the COTP or a designated representative.

(d) *Enforcement period.* This section will be enforced May 1, 2023, through May 19, 2023, unless an earlier end is announced by broadcast notice to mariners.

Dated: May 15, 2023.

H.R. Mattern,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard,
Captain of the Port Sector Ohio Valley.

[FR Doc. 2023-10766 Filed: 5/18/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/19/2023]